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Friday 21st May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

Just to update you all, Tameside Local Authority held an online meeting with some of our parents earlier in the week to inform of progress on the plans to build a new, larger Hawthorns School.

The Council re-emphasised their commitment to this project. They have adhered to the wishes expressed in a parental consultation last autumn, to build a school large enough to house the whole school. This means they will not split us across two sites, as was an option early in the process.

Tameside have decided on a site for the new school after scoping several alternatives. They are unable to share this location just yet,

as it needs to clear a couple of legal hurdles and be agreed by the Council's cabinet committee. The proposal is going before them in June, after which they should be in a position to disclose the information on location.

While this is good news for a couple of years' time, the current pressures on spaces will continue up until that point. Our numbers will rise again in September, from the current 143 to at least 160. To try and offset this pressure and to manage the new intake and the overcrowding, we have negotiated with Discovery Academy in Hattersley to rent some available classrooms from them. Some of our staff, equipment and resources will go up to Discovery, and those classes will be run as a satellite extension from our main school. Most children who will be supported there will be new admissions, but some of our younger pupils will also have their class based there for next year. We will inform parents when our admission numbers have been finalised and when next year's classes have been determined.

On a final note, please be reminded that we break up for half term today, and we will be closed for two weeks. School opens again at the usual time on Monday 7th June.

Have yourselves a restful Whit break, we looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Mr C

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